COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Troop Withdrawal Outlook

Defense Secretary Laird Reveals Three Conditions

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird has made it "very clear" there are three conditions that must be present before any troops can be withdrawn from Vietnam.

In addition, Secretary Laird told newsmen May 3, "all three of these conditions must be met, or any one of them."

First, we must have an agreement on mutual withdrawal in Paris, as far as the peace talks are concerned.

Second, there must be a sufficient upgrading and modernization of the South Vietnamese forces so that they can, in fact, take over the responsibilities, more of the responsibilities of the war in Southeast Asia.

Third, that the level of activity on the part of the Viet Cong or the North Vietnamese is substantially reduced in the area of South Vietnam.

Secretary Laird pointed out he did not want to say that all three of the conditions had to be met, because "if we get an agreement of mutual troop withdrawal in Paris and we perhaps did not have substantial improvement in the South Vietnamese forces, we still would have some withdrawal if we had that sort of an agreement in Paris."

Explaining in more detail, Secretary Laird said, "if we make substantial improvement on No. 2 towards upgrading the combat readiness and the effectiveness of the troops in South Vietnam to the point where American soldiers and service personnel are not needed, we are not going to keep them there. We won't keep a single American in Vietnam any longer than that American is needed and necessary in order to meet the objective of the United States.

"And the objective of the United States in South Vietnam has always been, and continues to be, the right of self-determination in a free and open election without any outside interference as far as that election is concerned."

* * *

Maj. Gen. McCown

Maj. Gen. Seith

Gen. Seith To Succeed Gen. McCown In Thailand

After completing two-years in Thailand, Maj. Gen. Hal D. McCown, USA, is being reassigned to the Republic of Vietnam in July.

Maj. Gen. Louis T. Seith, USAF, will succeed Gen. McCown as Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Thailand/Chief, Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, Thailand.

Gen. Seith is presently Deputy Commander 7/13th Air Force, with headquarters at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. He is scheduled to assume his new position June 1. Gen. McCown's assignment is in early July.

Defense Budget Planning Is Topic Of JCS Chairman

At the May 3 press conference Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discussed management as it pertains to Defense Department machinery.

He said that one of the basic problems in preparing past budgets is matching the commitments and the objectives to the resources that are made available. "Now," he said, "it is from the threat, the commitments, and the objectives that one derives, one might say, the national strategy.

"Obviously, if we are out of phase, that the resources are not enough to support commitments and objectives, you are going to have to modify

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CIRCULATION COPY 1

No Disciplinary Action Planned of Pueblo Crew

Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee says no disciplinary action will be taken against any of the personnel involved in the Pueblo incident.

The Secretary made his decision after reviewing the evidence, findings, opinions, and recommendations of the Court of Inquiry and the recommendations of the subsequent reviewing authorities.

Secretary Chafee read a prepared statement to newsmen May 6 concerning the Pueblo incident and said the Navy's leaders "are determined that the lessons learned from this tragedy shall be translated into effective action."

Prior to Secretary Chafee's review and decision on the Pueblo incident, recommendations had been made by the Court of Inquiry, Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet Admiral John J. Hyland, acting as Convening Authority, and Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Thomas H. Moorer.

The recommendations ranged from charges under General Court-Martial for Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, USN, Commanding Officer of the Pueblo, and Lt. Stephen R. Harris, USNR, the Officer-in-Charge of the Research Detachment aboard the Pueblo, to non-judicial punishment for Lt. Edward R. Murphy, Jr., USN, Executive Officer on the ship. Others in the chain of naval command were recommended for non-judicial punishment in the form of letters of reprimand.

In reference to the officers and men of the Pueblo, Secretary Chafee said "it is my opinion that—even assuming that further proceedings were had, and even going so far as to assume that a judgment of guilt were reached—they have suffered enough, and further punishment would not be justified."

He noted the men were illegally imprisoned by the North Koreans for eleven months. During that time, he said, their food and living conditions were marginal.

"They suffered extensively from physical abuse and torturous treatment. Their captors refused to afford them even the minimal humane treatment required under international law. When they were released from their captive status, each showed great loss of weight and other marks of cruel treatment."

Secretary Chafee said the Court of Inquiry was of the opinion that, during his internment, Commander Bucher upheld morale in a superior manner; that he provided leadership by insisting that command structure be maintained and providing guidance for conduct; and that he contributed to the ability of the crew to hold together and withstand the trials of detention until repatriation could be effected.

CHANGE OF COMMAND — Congressman L. Mendel Rivers delivered the principal speech during a recent Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Six change of command ceremony at Charleston, S.C. RAdm. Lester E. Hubbell (right), relieved RAdm. Vincent P. Healey (second from right) as the flotilla commander. Among those attending (l-r) were Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chief of Naval Operations, and RAdm. Clyde J. VanArsdall Jr., Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet. Adm. Hubbell was previously assigned at the Pentagon.

HONOR GUARD—Gen. Kris Sivara (right), deputy commander in chief, Royal Thai Army, troops the line of the United Nations Command Honor Guard in a ceremony in his honor at UNC Headquarters in Korea. Accompanying are Gen. C. H. Bonesteel (left), commander in chief, U.N. Command, and 1st Lt. Frederick P. Schweers, Honor Guard executive officer.

Navy Lets $1 Billion Contract for New Amphibious Ships

The first increment of a billion dollar contract for the Navy's new type multi-purpose amphibious warfare ship (LHA) was awarded May 1 to the Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Systems.

Navy said the LHA is faster and more versatile than any modern amphibious warfare ships now in the Fleet and will perform a mission which currently required four different types of vessels, including the amphibious assault ship, the amphibious transport dock, the amphibious cargo ship and the dock landing ship.

The contract calls for delivery of nine such ships to commence in the Spring of 1973 and continue into 1975. The contract signed May 1 was for an increment of $113.9 million providing funds for the first ship ($112,500,000) and long lead-time equipment for the second and third ships ($1,400,000).

The Navy said the new LHA will be as large as an ESSEX class aircraft carrier and will incorporate several new safety features to protect the crew and embarked Marines, as well as the ship.

It has a modern steam propulsion plant with full automation as well as built-in logic circuitry to handle engineering casualties automatically.

X-15 Aircraft Scheduled For Smithsonian Display

One of three X-15 rocket engine aircraft built to test the flight environment in the upper reaches of the atmosphere will be officially retired soon and placed in the Smithsonian Institution.

The first of the three X-15 aircraft built, Number 566670, will be dismantled and flown to Andrews AFB, Md. in May, for refurbishment at the Smithsonian's facility in Silver Hill, near Suitland, Md., prior to placement at the Smithsonian.

General Wheeler

(Continued from Page 1)

your thinking and you can do this in any of a number of ways, or a combination of ways."

Gen. Wheeler noted that some U.S. commitments are of long standing. In fact, many of them are.

"I think it would probably be in the area of objectives that we might modify if we have to in order to meet our resource availability. I think, also, what is needed and what we are discussing . . . is how to plan better and more efficiently to creating the resources, the forces, that are needed. In other words, to take the slippage out of the machinery and have a tighter linking between the various elements of the Department of Defense."

Army's Stockade System Studied

A committee of six prominent civilian penal experts is conducting an analysis and evaluation of Army confinement facilities and practices.

Army said the study will concentrate on the stockade system and include a review of the Presidio of San Francisco stockade.

In appointing the committee, Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor acted on the recommendation of Army Chief of Staff William C. Westmoreland, that a committee be appointed to provide an independent and professional evaluation of Army confinement facilities and practices.

The committee will conduct its own inspection of Army confinement facilities in the U.S.

The committee represents a broad spectrum of experience in the management of prisons. Chairman of the committee is Austin H. MacCormick, executive director of the Osborne Assn., Inc., New York. He is a member of the board of National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the American Correctional Assn.

Other members of the committee include: James V. Bennett, consultant to various Federal and state penology agencies.

Richard A. McGee, president, Institute for the Study of Crime and Delinquency, Sacramento, Calif.

Lawrence Pierce, chairman, New York State Narcotics Addiction Control Commission.

Sanger B. Powers, administrator, division of Corrections, Wisconsin State Department of Health and Social Services.

E. Preston Sharp, general secretary, American Correctional Assn., Washington, D.C.

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'An Extraordinary Reversal of Outlook'

NEW HORIZONS IN EAST ASIA

Secretary of State William P. Rogers recently discussed Vietnam peace negotiations in the broader context of East Asia as a whole.

A few years ago, he pointed out, there was in East Asia "a mood of fear and apprehension — a sense of the inevitable about new doctrines of revolutionary violence."

Today that seemingly irresistible tide of totalitarianism has been turned. Fatalism is dying and ferment prevails. Grave problems exist, but economic progress in some countries has been phenomenal and several East Asian nations are among the most rapidly developing countries in the world.

Below are excerpts from Secretary Rogers' address of April 21.

This Administration is determined to work for a reduction of world armaments, for a general alleviation of world tensions, and for negotiations on whatever international issues appear to offer reasonable hope of resolution.

The tragedy of war below the seventeenth parallel in Southeast Asia has obscured the larger events and the longer trends in the vast area washed by the Pacific Ocean.

Self-Confidence and a New Vitality

Japan, for example, has become the third greatest industrial nation in the world and is now taking the lead in assisting less developed countries in Asia.

The Republic of China has doubled the per capita income of its population in a single decade — and this country also is aiding others. It now provides technical assistance to more than twenty other nations.

South Korea has recovered from the wreckage of war and has become independent of economic aid from the outside. Her exports have jumped phenomenally in the past five years.

Indonesia, after twenty years of blustering leadership and external adventure — of inflation and accumulation of debt — of bureaucratic strangulation and economic decline — has returned from the brink of communist take-over and from the verge of economic collapse. Largely by their own efforts, the Indonesians have put their economic house in order and are launched into an ambitious economic and social development program. It is an extraordinary reversal of outlook from just a few years ago.

Meanwhile Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore have made rapid, sustained economic progress. Several of the nations in East Asia are among the most rapidly developing countries in the world.

As economic and social progress quickens, there is a growing sense of interdependence in East Asia.

An institutional framework for regional cooperation for the common good is now emerging. Australia and New Zealand happily are taking part in this; increasingly they see their future in the Asian context and not as remote appendages of Europe.

There is plentiful evidence of new horizons opening up in East Asia in development financing, marketing arrangements, transportation projects, "miracle rice", rural progress and the like.

In this vast, diversified, populous part of the world, fatalism is dying and ferment prevails; there is a new vitality and self-confidence — a healthy inclination on the part of Asians to take charge of their own affairs, to depend less on other parts of the world, and to help each other in the process. There is an early but clear trend toward the evolution of a regional community of peaceful, cooperative nations.

"Irresistible" Tide Has Turned

I do not wish to gild the lily. There are security problems in the area — a point which was made brutally and tragically over the Sea of Japan just a few days ago.

As you know, the unprovoked attack [on April 14] by Korean fighters on an unarmed American reconnaissance plane, flying in international air space, has led the President to provide armed escorts for such flights.

There are political problems in East Asia too — not least of them being the future of Okinawa which we shall be discussing with the Japanese a bit later this year.

Also, of course, there are immense economic development problems ahead, exacerbated in places by excessive rates of population growth.

The future in East Asia will be neither smooth nor placid. Yet not many years ago it seemed all too likely that a militant, aggressive totalitarianism might well be the wave of the future in East Asia. There was a mood of fear and apprehension — a sense of the inevitable about new doctrines of revolutionary violence.

Yet that seemingly irresistible tide turned out to be

"The future in East Asia will be neither smooth nor placid. Yet not many years ago it seemed all too likely that a militant, aggressive totalitarianism might well be the wave of the future in East Asia. There was a mood fear and apprehension — a sense of the inevitable about new doctrines of revolutionary violence."

resistible — and a quite different future is now in prospect for the community of Pacific nations.

Our Policy Toward Communist China

One cannot speak of a future Pacific community without reference to China.

The United States Government understands perfectly well that the Republic of China on the island of Taiwan and Communist China on the mainland are both facts of life.

We know that by virtue of its size, population, and the talents of its people, Mainland China is bound to play an important role in East Asian and Pacific affairs.

We have attempted to maintain a dialogue with the leaders of Communist China through periodic meetings in Warsaw; and we were disappointed two months ago when those leaders saw fit to cancel at the last moment a continuation of those talks.

We have made a number of specific suggestions — an exchange of journalists, a relaxation of travel restrictions, the sale of grain and pharmaceuticals — in the hope that such steps would lead to a better climate between us. We regret that these overtures have been rejected — and that the leaders of Communist China have elected, instead, to attack the Nixon Administration in public pronouncements.

Of course we recognize and have treaty relations with the Republic of China, which plays a responsible and constructive role in the international community. Whatever may be the ultimate resolution of the dispute between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the Peoples Republic of China on the mainland, we believe strongly it must be brought about by peaceful means.

As things stand now, Communist China is in trouble domestically and externally. The present leaders look with enmity or suspicion upon their neighbors. They are hostile toward the United Nations; hostile toward the United States; hostile toward the Soviet Union; and have shown little interest in normal diplomatic relations with other countries. They still preach violence as a permanent way of life.

We can expect all this to change with time. Not even a nation as large as mainland China can live forever in isolation from a world of inter-dependent states.

Meanwhile, we shall take initiatives to reestablish more normal relations with Communist China and we shall remain responsive to any indications of less hostile attitudes from their side.

Priorities in Vietnam

I have referred to these broad developments in the Pacific world today partly because it is a generally encouraging story that has been largely obscured from view by the war in Vietnam, and also because they serve as a backdrop for a brief discussion of Vietnam.

The United States is committed to achieving a peace in Vietnam which will permit the people of South Vietnam to determine their own future, free from outside interference by anyone. That is our objective. It has been stated many times. It is known to all concerned. It is not subject to change.

We shall continue to work hard at Paris toward this objective. We shal continue to present the most constructive suggestions possible. We are prepared at all times to hear what the other side has to offer. And we hope that the assumption behind our efforts in Paris — that the other side is now prepared to negotiate seriously for an end to the war — is the right assumption.

We have not, however, placed all our eggs in one basket. We have to be prepared for the unwelcome contingency that the other side does not yet want to negotiate a peaceful settlement. We are not prepared to assume that the only alernative to early progress in the peace talks is an indefinite extension of our present role.

This is why such high priority is being given to preparing South Vietnamese forces to assume a growing share of the combat burden and why the Government of South Vietnam is giving such high priority to developing the political unity of the country.

But progress toward peace can be accelerated significantly if the other side is prepared to get down to practical negotiations on mutual force withdrawals in the near future.

High Stakes in the Pacific

We have a clear view of the contribution that a peaceful settlement in South Vietnam and Southeast Asia would make to the security and outlook of East Asia as a whole — to the emergence of a peaceful, prosperous community of nations bordering the Pacific.

We Americans have high stakes in this — not just because we have military power in the Pacific — but because we happen to be a member of the Pacific community of nations. History, geography, economics, and our national interests make this a fact. So does our national commitment to an orderly world and to the ways of peace. We must fulfill that national commitment.

$95 Million Savings Projected By Base Action

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, acting on recommendations of service secretaries and directors of certain defense agencies announced April 24 actions to consolidate, reduce, realign or close 36 military installations and activities in the U.S.

Decisions involving four similar actions at overseas installations will be announced later.

Secretary Laird said these actions will save $95 million annually when completed. In addition, some 6,222 military personnel will be made available for other assignments and 3,028 civilian job positions will be eliminated. Approximately 14,000 acres of land will be released for non-defense use, the secretary of defense said.

Civilian employees whose jobs are eliminated will be offered another job opportunity. If it is necessary for career employees to move to other locations, the expense involved will be paid by the Government as provided by law. The services of the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment will be made available to communities affected.

Transfers, resulting from realignments approved by the secretary of defense, will result in a gain of personnel positions at 13 individual installations located in eight states. Six of the states will acquire a total gain of about 1,100 positions.

The four overseas actions will produce annual savings of $13.1 million. No movements of combat military forces are involved, the Defense Department said.

Following are actions approved by Secretary Laird, which were recommended by Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor; Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee; Secretary of the Air Force Robert C. Seamans, Jr.; director of the Defense Supply Agency; and the director of the Defense Atomic Support Agency.

36 Installations, Activities Listed

ALASKA

Anchorage
The Air Force's 626th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at the Fire Island Air F Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by December 1969.

Dutch Harbor
The Air Force's Detachment 2, 714th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at the D wood Bay DEW Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by September 1

Kulowiyi
The Air Force's 712th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at the Northeast Cape Air F Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by September 1969.

Nikolski
The Air Force's Detachment 1, 714th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at the Nik DEW Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by September 1969.

Port Heiden
The Air Force's Detachment 5, 714th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at the Port He DEW Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by September 1969.

Port Moller
The Air Force's Detachment 4, 714th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at the P Moller DEW Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by September 19

Unalakleet
The Air Force's 718th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at the Unalakleet Air Force tion will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by December 1969.

Unimak
The Air Force's Detachment 3, 714th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at the Cape chef DEW Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by September 1969

CALIFORNIA

Corona
The Naval Weapons Center Corona Laboratories will be consolidated with the Naval Wea Center, China Lake, California by June 1971. The Navy's Fleet Missile Systems An and Evaluation Group will remain at the Corona installation after the consolidation.

Los Angeles
The Defense Supply Agency's Subsistence Regional Headquarters will be consolidated wi similar headquarters in Alameda, California by January 1971.

Novato
The Air Force's Combat Center and 4th Air Force (Aerospace Defense Command) at Ha ton Air Force Base will be inactivated by September 1969.

San Bruno
The Naval activities located at the Naval Facility will be relocated to the Naval Ship Hunters Point, San Francisco and the facility declared excess by June 1970. The Marine Reserve Training Center will remain at the San Bruno facility.

San Francisco
The Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory located at the Naval Shipyard will be disestabl by December 1969. Selected functions of this activity will be transferred to other Naval a ities.

ILLINOIS

Arlington Heights
The Air Force's 755th Radar Squadron at the NORAD Center will be inactivated by Sept 1969.

IOWA

Waverly
The Air Force's 788th Radar Squadron at the Waverly Air Station will be inactivated the facility declared excess by September 1969.

MAINE

Topsham
The Air Force's 36th Air Division (Aerospace Defense Command) at Topsham Air Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by September 1969.

MARYLAND

La Plata
The Army's Radio Receiving Station will be inactivated by July 1969.

MINNESOTA

Chandler
The Air Force's 787th Radar Squadron at Chandler Air Force Station will be inactivated the facility declared excess by September 1969. FAA operations will continue.

ISSOURI

Kansas City
e Defense Supply Agency's Subsistence Regional Headquarters will be consolidated with similar headquarters in Chicago, Illinois and New Orleans, Louisiana by January 1970.

ONTANA

Great Falls
e Air Force's 801st Radar Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base will be inactivated by ecember 1969. FAA operations will continue.

EVADA

Lake Mead
e Department of Defense's Lake Mead Base will be inactivated and placed in standby tatus by December 1969.

EW YORK

Brooklyn
e Naval Applied Science Laboratory's functions will be reduced and limited to its current avigational effort by June 1970. Selected functions of this activity will be transferred to her Naval Research and Development activities.

HIO

Bellefontaine
e Air Force's 664th Radar Squadron at Bellefontaine Air Force Station will be inactivated nd the facility excessed by September 1969.

Columbus
e Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant will be declared excess to Government owner- hip by July 1969.

Garfield Heights
e Army Reserve Training Center will be declared excess by December 1969.

REGON

Corvallis
e Air Force's SAGE Direction Center and the 26th Air Division (Aerospace Defense Com- and) at Adair Air Force Station will be inactivated and the facility declared excess by eptember 1969.

NNSYLVANIA

Oakdale
e Air Force's 662nd Radar Squadron at the Army Oakdale installation will be inactivated December 1969. FAA operations will continue.

Philadelphia
e Research and Development functions of the Army's Frankford Arsenal will be consolidated h various other Army Research and Development activities which have similar missions January 1973.

NNESSEE

Bristol
e Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant will be declared excess to Government owner- hip by August 1969.

Clarksville
e Department of Defense's Clarksville Base will be inactivated and placed in standby status December 1969.

XAS

Dallas
e Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant will be declared excess to Government ownership May 1969.

Killeen
e Department of Defense's Killeen Base will be inactivated and placed in standby status by ember 1969.

Pottsboro
e Air Force's 745th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at Perrin Air Force Base will be ced to a training operation by September 1969.

Sweetwater
e Air Force's 683rd Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron at Sweetwater Air Force Station be inactivated and the facility declared excess by September 1969.

GINIA

Woodbridge
e Army's Radio Transmitter Station will be inactivated by July 1969.

SHINGTON

Seattle
e Defense Supply Agency's Subsistence Regional Headquarters will be consolidated with a ar headquarters in Alameda, California by January 1971.

New Health Care Program for Men Leaving Service

The Department of Defense has established a special, short-term health insurance program for servicemen being separated from active duty. Effective September 1, the new program will also cover their dependents.

Under present law and regulations, all health care benefits under Defense Department-sponsored programs end, both for the serviceman and his dependents, on the day he is released from active duty unless he is being retired.

It was pointed out that a man being discharged who has a pregnant wife is at a particular disadvantage under the present arrangement since most insurance companies exclude any maternity benefits during the first 10 months of coverage.

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird said that the new program evolved from a suggestion made to the Department last year by Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Chairman Rivers had proposed that the Defense Department develop, in cooperation with the health insurance industry, a short-term low-cost health insurance policy which would be offered servicemen during separation processing and which would cover them for the following 90 days.

Under the new program, servicemen initially will have a choice between two plans, one of which is being offered by Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the other by Mutual of Omaha. The Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan will include maternity benefits. The serviceman will pay the entire cost of whichever plan he chooses.

The amount he will be required to pay will depend on the particular coverage he selects and whether he obtains coverage for "self" or "self and family." The lowest charge will be $16.50 for self only. For comprehensive coverage for self and family, including maternity benefits, the charge will be $90.

Education, Youth, Domestic Issues High on Sec. Laird's List

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird has told a group of graduating students at St. Leo College in Florida that his credentials when talking about "youth" might be challenged because "obviously I do not belong to the long-haired generation.

"But I do have some credentials to talk about education," he said.

Explaining, the Secretary of Defense pointed out that during the course of 16 years of service in Congress he was intimately involved in the problems of education. And in his present position as Secretary of Defense, that interest in education continues, although "involvement in educational matters has become more direct."

For example, this year 800,000 servicemen will receive formal schooling in some kind of school conducted by the Department of Defense and another 160,000 will attend military dependent schools overesas.

"That makes me the superintendent of one of the largest school systems in the United States," Mr. Laird observed.

He said that each year 90,000 servicemen also earn the equivalent of a high school diploma through courses conducted by the United States Armed Forces Institute.

Secretary Laird then turned to the domestic scene and outlined for the students general areas in which he believes DOD can do more toward resolving domestic problems:

1. He believes that the DOD's annual purchases of approximately $40 billion can be effectively directed to produce auxiliary social and economic benefits. It is already setting aside portions of contracts to assist areas of concentrated unemployment.

2. Currently the Armed Services are composed of 3.5 million men and women. The DOD must insure that any person who enters military service is better prepared to serve society and has the essential skills to attain personal accomplishment when he leaves service than when he enters the military. Secretary Laird said there currently are several programs in this area. One is Project Transition which this year will provide 60,000 departing servicemen with needed civilian skills. Also, DOD is starting Project Value which is aimed at providing gainful employment for 5,600 disadvantaged youths. And this summer, DOD plans to hire 50,000 youngsters, 75 percent in the disadvantaged category. The aim here, he explained, is to provide meaningful employment so "that these young people can spend the summer gainfully and then return to school and finish their education."

3. The Defense Department has a "remarkable history of developing technological advances and transferring knowledge to the civilian sector," and plans to find better methods to insure that defense advances rapidly find use in the civilian economy.

4. DOD has vast resources in plants, facilities and equipment. Here, DOD needs to insure that, when bases are closed or relocated and when equipment is declared surplus, the economic benefits of such actions are fully realized.

5. Effective participation of the Defense Department in problem areas cannot be totally initiated from the Pentagon. It is essential, Secretary Laird said, that the personnel at every military facility become actively involved in contributing to a better society. "I have asked our military commanders to assist Mayors' Youth Councils and similar groups in providing facilities and assistance in support of their youth programs — again insuring that these actions do not interfere with our primary military missions," the secretary said.

6. Although DOD has pioneered in insuring equal rights and opportunities for servicemen, it cannot rest on its laurels. DOD must continue to make every effort to insure that all Defense personnel receive the full benefits "which our society promises."

On the subject of "youth," Secretary Laird noted that "admittedly young people are not always easy to get along with. They are questioning the dogmas and the values, the institutions and the customs of their elders. They are asking particularly why there is a gap between what we practice and what we preach. They have, I think, better developed minds and better developed consciences than we did at a comparable age."

He said the youth of today has a lively awareness of injustice and a deeper concern for others "than we did when we were their age."

PROUD FATHER—Lt. Miles Davis receives his promotion to first lieutenant from his father, Maj. Gen. Raymond G. Davis, Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division, and Col. Robert H. Barrow (left), Commanding Officer, 9th Marine Regiment. Lt. Davis, Executive Officer of "K" Co., 3rd Bn., 9th Marines, was participating in Operation Dewey in South Vietnam. He was wounded and received a second Purple Heart Medal since joining the unit.

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